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1989/05/23

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

RELEASED IN PART
B1,A3,A5

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT:

Meeting with Wan Li, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Member of the Politburo, People's Republic of China (C)

PARTICIPANTS:

The President
James A. Baker, III, Secretary of State
John Sununu, Chief of Staff
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Richard Solomon, Assistant Secretary of State-Designate
Douglas Paal, Director of Asian Affairs, NSC staff and Notetaker
Vivian Chang, Interpreter

Wan Li, Chairman of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress (NPC) and member of Politburo
Cao Zhi, Deputy to the National People's Congress, Deputy Secretary-General of the Standing Committee of the NPC
Zhu Qizhen, Vice Foreign Minister
Gu Ming, Member of the Standing Committee of the NPC, Vice Chairman of the Law Committee of the NPC
Han Xu, PRC Ambassador to the United States
Shi Guobao, Director of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Standing Committee of the NPC
Zhang Yijin, Director of the Department of American and Oceanic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Yang Jiechi, Counselor of the Translation and Interpretation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Interpreter

DATE, TIME
AND PLACE:

May 23, 1989, 2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Oval Office, Cabinet Room, and Residence

The President greeted Wan Li in the Oval Office at 2:30 - 2:40 p.m. and they then went into the Cabinet Room for the plenary session for about 30 minutes and then the President invited Wan Li and Vice Foreign Minister Zhu to the Residence for tea with Mrs. Bush. They remained there for about 30 minutes. (U)

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United States Department of State
Office of FOI, Privacy, & Classification Review
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After an exchange of pleasantries during a photo opportunity in the Oval Office, the President invited Chairman Wan to join him for a short meeting in the Cabinet Room and then to proceed to the Residence. (U)

Chairman Wan agreed to the President's proposal and said that he wanted to finish all the topics that they have to cover during those discussions. He said he would also very much like to meet with Mrs. Bush. (U)

Upon arrival in the Cabinet Room, the President extended an official welcome to Chairman Wan. He said he was delighted that the Chairman could be in Washington. He referred to the Chairman as an old personal friend. The President said he considered the visit to be very constructive -- and friendly -- for the bilateral relationship between the United States and the PRC, one that is so very important. He then offered to turn the agenda over to Chairman Wan. (U)

Chairman Wan said that it is a great pleasure and a heartwarming occasion to meet his old friend the President in Washington. He extended greetings from the Chinese leaders Deng Xiaoping, Zhao Ziyang, Li Peng, Yang Shangkun, and Li Xiannian. He said they all extended cordial and friendly greetings from the party and government leaders. He then handed a letter to President Bush sent by President Yang Shangkun. He noted that this letter had been written before the President's letter recently sent to Chairman Deng Xiaoping. Chairman Wan explained that he had been traveling in the time since the letter had been written. (U)

Chairman Wan said that the United States President's visit to China was a complete success. Although it was brief, it played an important role in enhancing Sino-U.S. friendship. China always attached importance to Sino-U.S. relations. It viewed the relations from the long term perspective, in light of the global situation. Under the present international situation, these relations are of vital importance whether in terms of the two countries or in terms of promotion of a relaxation of international tension. Deng Xiaoping said China-U.S. relations should progress in a new pattern. The two countries should trust each other and work to minimize their troubles. (U)

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The President said that he had seen that story. (U)

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The President and Chairman Wan, together with General Scowcroft and Vice Foreign Minister Zhu, then walked to the Residence. At the Residence, the President asked how the Chairman sees the present situation playing itself out. (U)

[Redacted] B1

The President asked if this was just a handful of all those demonstrators. (U)

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